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Fees fixed by the Government for examinations for various services under the Government.

* 98 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House a statement showing the various fees prescribed by Government on applications by candidates for admission to examinations for several public services, the amounts collected, the expenses incurred for holding examinations, the savings made out of the amounts collected during the financial years 1936–37 and 1937–38; and to state

(*b*) what the objects and reasons are for charging the fees;

(*c*) whether Government have received representations or are aware of objections raised to the fees on the ground that they are excessive or of a profiteering character; and

(*d*) whether Government contemplate reduction of the fees, and if so, to what extent and in which directions?

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (*a*) A statement [a] in answer to clause (*a*) is laid on the table of the House. Even if we take into account only a third of the overhead expenses, there would be no real saving.

" (*b*) The object of charging the fees is to meet the cost of the examinations and to put a check on applications from persons not likely to pass.

" (*c*) Representations were made in the old Legislative Council that the fees charged were high and that therefore they should be reduced; but it was stated in reply that the fees were intended to meet the expenditure and that they were moderate on the whole.

" (*d*) The answer is in the negative."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—" If, as is stated, the fees are charged in order to prevent applications from persons who are not likely to pass, may I enquire whether in many cases those who are very likely to pass and are better fitted, than the richer persons who can easily pay the fees, are too poor to pay the excessive fees? Why should such poor persons be asked to pay the high fees? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" I stated in the answer that the object of charging the fees is to meet the cost of the examinations and also to put a check on applications from persons not likely to pass. It is possible that in rare cases a boy or young man who is likely to pass may find difficulty in getting the amount; but in the larger number of cases, the result would be that those who are likely to pass will apply and those who are not likely to pass will not waste the money which is necessary for getting in."

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a Printed as Appendix I on page 252 infra.

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—" May I know how the estimate was arrived at on the basis that the boys who are likely to pass must always belong to the richer classes?"

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" The estimate is based on commonsense."

Sri M. NARAYANA RAO:—" May I ask whether the Government will consider the question of reducing the present heavy fees?"

" The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" They are not heavy, they are fairly moderate."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—" I do not know what 'commonsense' there is here; may I know what is really meant?"

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" 'Commonsense' means reasoning based on human nature."

Revenue and expenditure and amount spent by way of capital investment in South Kanara.

* 99 *Q.*—Sri D. MANJAYA HEGDE: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total revenue and expenditure and surplus, if any, in South Kanara district for the years 1936–37 and 1937–38; and

(*b*) whether the Government have spent any amount in the nature of capital investment in the district of South Kanara hitherto?

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—" (*a*) A statement [a] showing the figures of revenue realized and expenditure incurred in the district of South Kanara for the years 1936–37 and 1937–38 is laid on the table. But the statement does not include

(1) the revenue and expenditure in the Public Works and Forest departmental accounts, as figures are not available for these departments by districts;

(2) revenue or expenditure relating to the district booked outside the district, for example, that relating to the Governor, Legislature, Secretariat, Heads of Departments and Circle Officers, High Court, Debt charges, Stationery and Printing, Expenditure in England, Pension liability for the Headquarters and Circle staff and the like.

" In view of this and other factors, which would affect the figures, the surplus or deficit in the district of South Kanara cannot be assessed from this statement.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 253–254 infra.